REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of the present application and the consideration of the following remarks.

Examiner rejected claims 1-48 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,668,364. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

For example, claim 1 recites:

1.   (Original) A method to design a circuit, the method comprising:
       determining first statistical circuit activity data at a plurality of nodes
            of a first design of the circuit;
       transforming a first portion of the first design to generate a second
            portion of a second design of the circuit;
       selectively determining at least one node in the second portion of the
            second design; and
       determining second statistical circuit activity data for the at least one
            node in the second portion of the second design from the first
            statistical circuit activity data

The Office Action relied upon Figs. 9a-e and Col. 10, line 6 to Col. 11, line 10, especially Fig. 9e and Col 10, line 63 to Col. 11, line 10, for the limitation of "determining first statistical circuit activity data at a plurality of nodes of a first design of the circuit". Applicant respectfully disagrees. This portion of U.S. Patent No. 6,668,364, especially Fig. 9e and Col 10, line 63 to Col. 11, line 10, is about a replication operation. Applicant respectfully requests Examiner to specially point out what in this portion of U.S. Patent No. 6,668,364 corresponds to "first statistical circuit activity data".

In rejecting claim 1, the Office Action relied upon Figs. 9a-9e, Figs. 10a-e and Col. 10, line 6 to Col. 12, line 48, especially Fig. 9f and Col 10, line 63 to Col. 11, line 18, for the limitation of "determining second statistical circuit activity data for the at least one node in

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the second portion of the second design from the first statistical circuit activity data".

Applicant respectfully disagrees. This portion of U.S. Patent No. 6,668,364, especially Fig. 9f and Col 10, line 63 to Col. 11, line 18, is about the replication of a register. Applicant respectfully requests Examiner to specially point out what in this portion of U.S. Patent No. 6,668,364 corresponds to "second statistical circuit activity data" that is determined "from the first statistical circuit activity data".

Similarly, independent claims 17 and 33 recite "first statistical circuit activity data" and "second statistical circuit activity data". Since the reference relied upon for the rejection does not show each and every aspect of the claim, the withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The remaining claims depend from at least one of the independent claims discussed above, and therefore include at least some of the distinguishing claim limitations as discussed above. As a result, the remaining claims are also patentable.

Applicant respectfully submits that U.S. Patent No. 6,668,364 that was relied upon for the rejection was assigned to the same assignee of the present application. Further, the first named inventor of U.S. Patent No. 6,668,364 is the same as the second named inventor of the present application. Applicant respectfully submits that U.S. Patent No. 6,668,364 does not anticipate the pending claims of the present application.

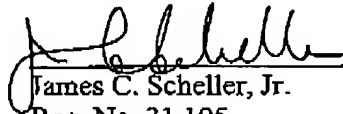2986P042   — 14 —

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are patentable over the cited references. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call at (408) 720-8300.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due or credit any overages. Furthermore, if an extension is required, Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

Date: ___10 / 10___, 2005

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